

ALNWICK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL
OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR
1952.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

The report for 1952 is a short one on lines similar to that of previous years.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

The area of the District remains unchanged at 4778 acres.

The number of inhabited houses is 2416.

The number of new houses completed during the year was 21, and of them, 10 were permanent Council Houses built with state assistance whilst 11 were built by private enterprise.

The Rateable Value is £45,347.

The sum represented by a penny rate is £182.

The estimated mid year population is 7,384, this figure is taken when calculating the birth and death rate.

VITAL STATISTICS.Births.

The number of births, corrected for inward and outward transfers was 135, of which 70 were males and 65 females. Of this number three were still births and five were illegitimate.

Birth Rate 1952 - 18.3 per thousand per annum.

" " 1951 - 15.7 " " "

" " 1950 - 17.9 " " "

The birth rate for England and Wales 1952 - 15.85, per thousand per annum.

Deaths.

The number of deaths corrected for inward and outward transfers was 78, of which 36 were males and 42 females

Death Rate 1952 - 10.56 per thousand per annum.

" " 1951 - 14.3 " " "

" " 1950 - 11.7 " " "

The death rate for England and Wales 1952 - 11.3 per thousand per annum.

Infantile Deaths.

The number of deaths in infants under one year of age was 2 (both female). There were no deaths amongst illegitimate children under the age of one year.

The infantile death rate 1952 - 15.1 per thousand live births.

" " " 1951 - 8.8 " " "

" " " 1950 - 7.7 " " "

The Infantile death rate for England and Wales 1952 - 27.6 per thousand live births.

CAUSES OF DEATH AT ALL AGES.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	Pneumonia	1
Cancer & Malignant Diseases	8	Bronchitis	5
Diabetes	1	Gastric & Duodenal Ulcer	4.
Heart Disease	23	Kidney Disease	2.
Other circulatory Diseases,	18	Congenital Malformation	1.
Accidents	4	Other diseases	8.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of cases of infectious diseases notified to me during the year was 33.

Erysipelas	1	Encephalites	1
Scarlet Fever	3	Acute Anterior	
Influenzal Pneumonia	1	Polionylitis	2
Measles	24	Whooping Cough	1

The two cases of Infantile Paralysis were of the Non-paralytic type. Owing to the practical disappearance of Diphtheria and the mild type of Scarlet Fever the Infectious Diseases Hospital has been very little used during 1952.

TUBERCULOSIS:

Twelve cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year.

LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES:

Tuberculosis, Arthpoedic and Anti Natal Clinics are held regularly at Alnwick Infirmary. There are also Dental and Child Welfare Clinics in the Town whilst a Maternity Hospital at Hillcrest is now supplying a long felt want.

Consulting Physicians and Surgeons visit regularly at Alnwick Infirmary and are available for consultations and operations.

WATER SUPPLY:

The supply of water was satisfactorily maintained during the year. Most of the houses in the District have a piped supply. The new water scheme is progressing and should commence to operate in 1954.

DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE:

The new sewage works scheme is progressing satisfactorily.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION:

Meat inspection at the Slaughterhouses was carried out by the Veterinary Surgeon (Mr. McPherson).

All shops were inspected and any food found unfit for human consumption was condemned.

DISINFESTATION:

Rodent Control was effectively carried out during the year. The Refuse Tip was regularly treated against vermin and the sewers were treated twice with satisfactory results. Other fumagations etc, were carried out promptly.

B. TREVOR ROPER.

Medical Officer of Health.